

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A latex composition comprising:

- (i) 100 parts by mass (in terms of a solid content) of an anionic latex ~~containing, as a main component,~~ comprising a conjugate diene copolymer ~~containing~~ comprising (A) 55 to 99.99% by mass of a conjugate diene unit, (B) 0.01 to 5% by mass of an unsaturated carboxylic acid unit, (C) 0 to 44.99% by mass of an aromatic vinyl compound unit, and (D) 0 to 40% by mass of another unsaturated compound unit copolymerizable therewith,
- (ii) 0.1 to 20 parts by mass of a nonionic surfactant, and
- (iii) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a cationic surfactant, and
- (iv) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a halide ion source.

2. (Original) The latex composition according to claim 1, wherein the conjugate diene copolymer is a conjugate diene copolymer having a Mooney viscosity (ML_{1+4} , 100°C) of 70 to 170.

3. (Original) The latex composition according to claim 1, further comprising: at least one selected from the group consisting of a styrene-butadiene copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer, and a natural rubber.

4. (Currently Amended) The latex composition according to claim 1, ~~further~~ comprising: ~~0 to 10~~ 0.1 to 5 parts by mass of a halide ion source (iv).

5. (Currently Amended) The latex composition according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the halide ion source (iv) is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and hydrochloric acid.

6. (Currently Amended) The latex composition according to claim 1, which further ~~contains~~ comprises ~~0~~ 0.1 to 2 parts by mass of a thickener (v).

7. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a latex composition comprising:
(I) ~~a step of~~ adding (iv) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a halide ion source and (ii) 0.1 to 20 parts by mass of a nonionic surfactant to (i) 100 parts by mass of an anionic latex ~~containing, as a main component,~~ comprising a conjugate diene copolymer ~~containing~~ comprising (A) 55 to 99.99% by mass of a conjugate diene unit, (B) 0.01 to 5% by mass of an unsaturated carboxylic acid unit, (C) 0 to 44.99% by mass of an aromatic vinyl compound unit, and (D) 0 to 40% by mass of another copolymerizable compound unit, and stirring and mixing them to produce a latex composition intermediate, and

(II) ~~a step of~~ adding (iii) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a cationic surfactant to the latex composition intermediate, and stirring and mixing them to produce the latex composition.

8. (Original) The process for producing a latex composition according to claim 7, wherein the conjugate diene copolymer is a conjugate diene copolymer having a Mooney viscosity (ML₁₊₄, 100°C) of 70 to 170.

9. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a latex composition according to claim 7, further comprising: adding at least one rubber component selected from the group

consisting of a styrene-butadiene copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer, and a natural rubber, prior to the addition of the nonionic surfactant, in ~~the step~~ (I).

10. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a latex composition according to claim 7, ~~further comprising: adding a~~ wherein the halide ion source; is added prior to the addition of the nonionic surfactant, ~~in the step (I).~~

11. (Currently Amended) An asphalt composition comprising: ~~an~~ asphalt and a latex composition, which ~~contains~~ comprises 100 parts by mass of the asphalt and 0.5 to 20 parts by mass of the latex composition,

wherein the latex composition comprises:

(i) 100 parts by mass (in terms of a solid content) of an anionic latex ~~containing, as a main component,~~ comprising a conjugate diene copolymer containing (A) 55 to 99.99% by mass of a conjugate diene unit, (B) 0.01 to 5% by mass of an unsaturated carboxylic acid unit, (C) 0 to 44.99% by mass of an aromatic vinyl compound unit, and (D) 0 to 40% by mass of another unsaturated compound unit copolymerizable therewith,

(ii) 0.1 to 20 parts by mass of a nonionic surfactant, and

(iii) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a cationic surfactant, and

(iv) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a halide ion source.

12. (Original) The asphalt composition according to claim 11, wherein the conjugate diene copolymer is a conjugate diene copolymer having a Mooney viscosity (ML_{1+4} , 100°C) of 70 to 170.

13. (Original) The asphalt composition according to claim 11, further comprising: at least one selected from the group consisting of a styrene-butadiene copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer, and a natural rubber.

14. (Currently Amended) The asphalt composition according to claim 11, ~~further comprising: 0 to 10~~ wherein the latex composition comprises 0.1 to 5 parts by mass of a halide ion source (iv).

15. (Currently Amended) The asphalt composition according to claim 11 ~~claim 14~~, wherein the halide ion source (iv) is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and hydrochloric acid.

16. (Currently Amended) The asphalt composition according to claim 11, wherein the latex composition further comprises ~~comprising: 0~~ 0.1 to 2 parts by mass of a thickener (v).

17. (Currently Amended) A cationic asphalt emulsion comprising an asphalt, a latex composition, water, and a cationic surfactant, these components forming an emulsion, wherein the latex composition comprises:

(i) 100 parts by mass (in terms of a solid content) of an anionic latex containing, as a main component, a conjugate diene copolymer containing (A) 55 to 99.99% by mass of a conjugate diene unit, (B) 0.01 to 5% by mass of an unsaturated carboxylic acid unit, (C) 0 to 44.99% by mass of an aromatic vinyl compound unit, and (D) 0 to 40% by mass of another unsaturated compound unit copolymerizable therewith,

(ii) 0.1 to 20 parts by mass of a nonionic surfactant, ~~and~~

(iii) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a cationic surfactant, and

(iv) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of a halide ion source.

18. (Original) The cationic asphalt emulsion according to claim 17, wherein the conjugate diene copolymer is a conjugate diene copolymer having a Mooney viscosity (ML₁₊₄, 100°C) of 70 to 170.

19. (Original) The cationic asphalt emulsion according to claim 17, further comprising: at least one selected from the group consisting of a styrene-butadiene copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer, and a natural rubber.

20. (Currently Amended) The cationic asphalt emulsion according to claim 17, further comprising: ~~0 to 10~~ 0.1 to 5 parts by mass of a halide ion source (iv).

21. (Currently Amended) The cationic asphalt emulsion according to claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein the halide ion source (iv) is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and hydrochloric acid.

22. (Currently Amended) The cationic asphalt emulsion according to claim 17, ~~further comprising: 0~~ wherein the latex composition further comprises 0.1 to 2 parts by mass of a thickener (v).